GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3544
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004
DEVELOPMENT OF TELECOM NETWORK IN WEST BENGAL
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the development works planned to be executed in the field of telecommunications and postal in West Bengal during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) whether some of the works started in the Ninth Plan period are still incomplete;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which these works are likely to be completed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) The details of telecommunication development works carried out by BSNL in West Bengal during the first two years of 10th Five Year Plan are given below:

Parameters	Years (Tenth Plan Period) 2002-03		2003-04	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
New Telephone Connections (Wired + WLL + CMTS) (lines)	279000	356211 (Gross)	417000	371171 (Gross)
Switching Capacity (Lines)	419350	405980	360000	302975
OFC (Rkms)	3500	3360	1282	1851
Microwave (Rkms)	-	25	82	58
VPTs (Nos.)	4125	3147	None	None
TAX (K Ccts.)	66.5	69.05	54	47

The targets for provision of telecom facilities are fixed every year. A target of 8.84 lakh telephone connections has been fixed for the current year 2004-05, out of which 3.21 lakh telephone connections have been provided till 31.10.2004. The details of the

development works planned to be executed for the postal sector in West Bengal during the 10th Plan, are given in the Annexure..

(b) to (d) With regards to telecom, no work started in the 9th Plan period is incomplete. However, in the case of Postal Sector, two building projects, viz. Construction of Post Office building and Sub-Postmaster`s Quarters at Bharatpur, Murshidabad and 8 Staff Quarters (Type-II) at Jhaljhalia, Malda could not be completed and taken over due to non-availability of electricity. These will be completed by the end of 2004-05. Further, a proposal to set up an Automatic Mail Processing Centre at Kolkata was started in the Ninth Five Year Plan but could not be implemented as the costs and scope of the projects needed to be reviewed, keeping in view the technology options available to handle the mail traffic. Now, the review of the proposal of setting up the Automatic Mail Processing Centre at Kolkata has been completed. The project is targeted to be completed during the 10th Plan period.

ANNEXURE-I

DETAILS OF DEVELOPMENT WORKS PLANNED TO BE EXECUTED IN WEST BENGAL DURING 10TH PLAN PERIOD

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Details of Execution
1.	Computerisation of post offices (installation of MPCMs), Accounts and Adminstrative offices and software Development	(a) All Head Post Offices and all sub-post offices having more than 2 hands to be computerised subject to availability of resources. (b) Computerisation of postal accounts office (PAO), Kolkata. Funds are also being committed centrally for the benefit of all the States including West Bengal in respect of e-post, e-Bill Post and National Data Centre.
2.	Computerisation and networking of Mail Offices	Three Head Record Offices computerised during 2002-03 and 2003-04.
3.	Upgradation of Customer Care Centres	Sixty computerised Customer Care Centres (CCCs) set up in different parts of West Bengal and 14 existing computerised CCCs have been upgraded.
4.	Modernisation of operative/working systems (improving ergonomics)	(a) 13 post offices modernised so far. 10 post offices targetted for modernisation in the current year. (b) 7 Speed Post Centres (SPCs) modernised. (c) Four new Railway Mail Vans (RMS) provided in 2002-03 and 2003-04. (d) 191 Extra Departmental Branch Offices (EDBOs) were provided with infrastructure equipment in 2002-03 and 2003-04. 149 EDBOs to be provided with infrastructural equipment in the current year. (e) One Mail Motor Depot is to be modernised in the current year.
5.	Automatic Mail Processing Centre	Automatic Mail Processing Centre to be set up at Kolkata
6.	Modernization / upgradation of premium products	(a) One State Speed Post Centre upgraded into the status of National Speed Post Centre in 2003-04. (b) 12 Speed Post booking offices/SPCs supplied with computers and peripherals to facilitate track and trace of Speed Post articles booked. (c) 29 Speed Post booking and delivery offices supplied with computers and

	peripherals to issue computer generated receipts, scanning of bar codes and preparation of journals.	
7. Upgradation and promotion of philately	(a) 12 District level Philatelic Exhibitions held in the 3 years of the 10th Plan period. (b) Seven Philatelic Bureau/Counters provided with Philatelic tools and equipments.	
8. Construction of buildings	Seven building projects planned for construction in the 10th plan period.	
9. Modernisation of circle stamp depots	Kolkata Circle Stamp Depot is targetted to be computerised.	
10. Computerisation of International Mail Processing	Kolkata Foreign Post Office to be computerised.	
11. Improvement in Quality of Service (EAP)	Improvement of Quality Service Project to be implemented in Kolkata for security of letter mail as well as for supply of High Quality Stamp Cancellation and Date Stamping Machines in select post offices.	
12. Expansion of postal network	38 Branch Post Offices and 2 sub-post Offices and 4 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) opened in the 10th Plan.	